

as you exhibit that nature has given to our black brethren talents equal to those of the other colors of men, and that the appearance of the want of them is owing merely to the degraded condition of their existence both in Africa and America. I can add with truth that nobody wishes more ardently to see a good system commenced for raising the condition of their body and mind to what it ought to be, as fast as the imbecility of their present existence, and other circumstances which cannot be neglected, will admit. (To Benjamin Bainecker, 1791. F.

V., 3780

NEIGHBORS.—The testimony of my native country, of the individuals who have known me in private life, to> my conduct in its various duties and relations, is the more grateful, as proceeding from eye witnesses and observers, from triers of the vicinage. Of you, then, my neighbors, I may ask, in the face of the world, "Whose ox have I taken, or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed, or of whose hand have I received a bribe to blind my eyes therewith?" On your verdict I rest with conscious security. (To* the inhabitants of Albe-marle County, 1809. C. V., 439.)

NEPOTISM.—Bringing into office no* desires of making it subservient to the advancement of my own private interests, it has been no sacrifice, by postponing them, to strengthen the confidence of my fellow citizens. But I have not felt equal indifference towards excluding merit from office, merely because it was related to me. However, I have thought it my duty so to do, that my constituents may be satisfied, that, in selecting persons for the management of their affairs, I am influenced by neither personal nor family interests, and, especially, that the field of public office will not be perverted by me into' a family property. (To Horatio Turpin, 1807. C. V., 90.)

NEPOTISM.—In the course of the trusts I have exercised through life with powers of appointment, I can say with truth, and with unspeakable comfort, that I never did appoint a relation to office, and that merely because I never saw the case in which some one did not offer, or occur, better qualified. (To^ J. C. Cabell, 1824. C. VII., 331.)